

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An interconnect apparatus comprising:
a wearable garment (2) having a body structure; and
at least one interconnect element (12) having a button hole opening (10) defined by an outer ring (11), the outer ring (11) having at least one electrically conductive contact portion (11a) and an opening (10), wherein said interconnect device element (12) is coupled to a fabric circuit (4) integrated in said garment (2) via the at least one electrically conductive contact portion (11a) of the outer ring (11).
2. (currently amended) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a button connector (40) having at least one electrically conductive contact portion (40a), said button connector being having a shape adapted to be releasably coupled, physically and electrically, to respective at least one electrically conductive contact portion (11a) of outer ring (11) of said interconnect element (12).
3. (currently amended) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said button connector further comprises a cable (16) extending therefrom.
4. (original) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said cable (16) serves as a coupling to an electronic device (14).
5. (original) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said cable (16) serves as a coupling to a power source (14).

6. (currently amended) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said interconnect device element (12) is mounted on the outer surface of said garment (2) for engaging and supporting units ancillary to transmitting electronic signals.

7. (currently amended) An interconnect apparatus comprising:

a wearable garment (2) having a body structure;
at least one interconnect element (12) having a button hole opening (10) defined by an outer ring (11), the outer ring (11) having at least one electrically conductive contact portion (11a) (42a) coupled to a first fabric circuit (4) integrated in a first layer of said garment (2); and,

a button connecting element (20) having at least one electrically conductive contact portion (20a) coupled to a second fabric circuit (4) integrated in a second layer of said garment (2),

wherein said interconnect element (12) engages the button connecting element via a releasable locking action with button hole opening (10) defined by outer ring (11) so that the respective conductive contact portions (42a 11a,20a) come in contact electrically.

8. (original) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said first and second fabric circuits (4) are coupled to a signaling device (14).

9. (original) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said first and second fabric circuits (4) are coupled to electronic devices integrated in the body structure of said garment.

10. (currently amended) The interconnect apparatus of Claim [[6]] 7, wherein said connector button connecting element (20) is a button having two separate electrically conductive portions, and wherein the outer ring (11) has two separate electrically

conductive contact portions, wherein a respective one of the electrically conductive portions of each of the button connecting element and the outer ring come in contact electrically in response to the interconnect element engaging the button connecting element via the releasable locking action.

11. (currently amended) A method for permitting a person to activate an electronic device conveniently, said method comprising the steps of:

attaching at least one fabric circuit (4) in a wearable garment (2);
mounting an interconnect device (12) having a button hole opening (10) defined by an outer ring (11), the outer ring (11) having at least one conductive contact portion (12a) (11a) to said wearable garment;
dressing said person in said wearable garment (2); and,
selectively coupling a button connector (20, 40) having at least one conductive contact portion (20a, 40a) to said interconnect device (12) via the at least one electrically conductive contact portion (11a) of the outer ring (11) to serve as a coupling to an electronic device (14) or a power source.

12. (currently amended) A method for permitting a person to activate an electronic device conveniently, said method comprising the steps of:

attaching at least one fabric circuit (4) in a first layer and a second layer of a wearable garment (2);
mounting an interconnect device (12,-20) to the first layer of said wearable garment (2), the interconnect device having a button hole opening (10) defined by an outer ring (11), the outer ring (11) having at least one conductive contact portion (12a,20a) (11a) electrically coupled to a conductive track of the first layer of said wearable garment (2);
mounting a button connector (20, 40) to the second layer of said wearable garment (2), the button connector having at least one conductive contact portion (20a,

40a) electrically coupled to a conductive track of the second layer of said wearable garment (2);

dressing said person in said wearable garment (2); and,
enclosing the two layers of said wearable garment (2) by engaging said button connector (20, 40) to said interconnect device (12) via the at least one electrically conductive contact portion (11a) of the outer ring (11) so that the respective conductive contact portions (12a 11a, 20a, 40a) come in contact electrically.